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# ◀ MARS NEWS ▶

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Volume 52, Issue 09

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc

September 2001

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The August meeting will be done by Ed McKnight, W4EJM on building a Five-Element 2-meter beam for about \$20 dollars and one hour of your time. He will build one at the meeting to show how easy it is and what it will look like when you are finished with it.

### FROM THE EDITOR:

This will be the third month we have sent the newsletter electronically. I hope that each member who elected to receive the electronic version is getting the newsletter okay and enjoying the colored pictures. We will continue to make pictures part of the newsletter.

If you are still receiving a paper copy and would like to get it electronically, please send me an email to: [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org). We will be glad to add you to the club reflector.

If you elected to receive it electronically and are not getting the email, let me know that also so we can verify your email address on the club reflector.

Mary Hunt, N4MH



## From the President:

As you are probably reading this, the MS-150 Breakaway to the Beach is either going on or has just concluded. I hope to have some pictures to include in the next newsletter.

The American Diabetes Association is having their Walktoberfest on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>. We will solicit signups for this event at the next Club meeting. Heather Yale from the ADA expects this year's event to have more walkers, so we may need a few extra eyes and ears from the Club. Your help is always appreciated.

A special event station will be going on at Discovery Place on October 13 and 14, 2001. The occasion is to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Discovery Place in Charlotte. Hours will be from 10 AM to 4 PM Saturday, and 12 Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. Look for activity there on a wide variety of modes and frequencies. See the Club website at [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org) for a link to the announcement.

Jamboree on the Air is coming up during the third weekend of October, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Currently, we expect to use the station at Discovery Place, and possibly a second station at the Girl Scout headquarters on Idlewild Rd. We will have more details at the Club meeting, along with some signup sheets.

On Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>, we also have the Charlotte Crop Walk – the largest in the country. Over 10,000 walkers, and they would like our help again. Three rest stops, four pickup vans, perhaps some HAMS on bicycle – and it would be good to have some folks available as observers, just in case of a shortage of volunteers elsewhere on the route. A signup sheet will be available at the Club meeting.

We have to begin thinking about officers for next year. Please think about running for a Club office. It's a lot of fun and really doesn't require as much work as it sounds. I have really enjoyed my terms so far, but I'd like to give someone else a chance to "handle the ropes". You'll get plenty of help from the current officers, and many of the officers have served in other capacities with the Club in past years. I started as a director, was elected to the Vice-President's post, and have now served as President for over two years – and I've really enjoyed it.

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a photo or two (or three or more) of some of our repeater sites. I thought perhaps I could share the view with others in this way.

See you at our Club meeting!

73,  
Shawn, K4RSG

## MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 28, 2001

Shawn Goodin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Shawn solicited volunteers for the MS 150 Breakaway to the Beach Bike Tour scheduled for Sept. 22 and 23, 2001. Hams are needed for a variety of jobs including manning SAG Wagons and rest stop duty. This activity is a great way to spend a weekend with the radio amateur hobby. Elena's web site [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) has printable maps of the event as well as a provision to sign up for part of the action.

Bob Southworth, KI4YV, gave a presentation on dipole antennas. He discussed azimuth and elevation patterns as well as SWR's for a variety of antenna heights and shapes. He showed us that a lot could be achieved with a relatively simple and inexpensive dipole.

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK was elected Club Secretary by show of hands to fill the void left by George Fryer, KI4KK who is leaving us.

Submitted by:

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK

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### SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish a speedy recovery to Mac McCray, K4PDY. Mac had a brain hemorrhage on Friday, August 24 and had emergency surgery at Presbyterian Hospital. This was probably caused by a bump on the head. He is home now and recovering. Some of the members have already talked to him on 2 meters. He would enjoy talking to members on 2 meters or the phone. Mac is hoping the doctors will let him participate in the MS 150 Break Away to the Beach. Mac we hope to see you on the event!!!



This picture is from last year's breakaway to the beach.

Mac, we hope to see you again this year.

MARS Board Meeting  
August 14, 2001  
Minutes

Present: President – Shawn Goodin K4RSG, Treasurer John White WB2NHQ, Board members Mac McCray K4PDY, Bob Cole KD4IIN, Bill Turner W4WNT, Jeff Blythe KA4WYC, and Dave Wentzel KD4ITI. Absent: Vice-President Wilton McAllister WB4PCS, George Fryer KI4KK

Meeting was brought to order at 7:09 PM.

-- President's Report: Shawn Goodin discussed an email that had been sent to him from a member. The email centered around some dissatisfaction concerning member recognition.

Vice-President's Report: -- Absent, no report provided.

Treasurer's Report: -- John White reported that 100 members had renewed so far.

Secretary's Report: -- Absent, no report provided. A special election for the Secretary's position due to George Fryer's resignation was being planned for the August Club meeting.

Repeater committee: -- A discussion of the recent QRN/QRM on several of the repeaters ensued. Shawn indicated that he would be taking some steps to minimize some of the problems encountered recently.

Education committee: -- The Board discussed whether to purchase the new Technician tapes for teaching the Technician class material. A motion was made by Jeff Blythe to purchase the tapes at a cost not to exceed \$200. Motion seconded by Dave Wentzel. Motion passed.

Discovery Place: -- Jamboree on the Air coming up in October (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). Bob Southworth has been talking to the Discovery Place CEO about moving the station to a more visible location. A special event station is coming up October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Discovery Place. This event is being co-sponsored by the Club and the Carolina DX Association.

Old Business:

Any news on the request of a Monroe area HAM to establish a linked 440 repeater in Charlotte, or to consider whether to link with our 444.6 repeater? Shawn will talk to the individual. Making the request.

We are planning for the new coax, refurbish the tower, change out antennas, and more at the Red Cross station.

New Business:

Shawn and Jeff will pursue purchasing some door prizes at Shelby.

Motion to close meeting by Bill Turner, seconded by Bob Cole.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Submitted by Shawn Goodin, K4RSG

## INFO ON BREAKAWAY TO THE BEACH

In case you missed this information last month, we are printing it again since this is our largest public service event of the year.

MS150 Breakaway to the Beach — September 22 and 23, 2001 — [www.RideMaps.com](http://www.RideMaps.com)

Last year, as an experiment, I set up a web site where participants in the MS150 Breakaway to the Beach could download the route maps. It proved to be quite popular. So, this year I'm adding more stuff.

If you'd like to join us for a very fun weekend, you can sign up just by clicking from my web site. This is this year's "experiment" so let's hope it works!

Some of the other new stuff:

There will be links to interactive maps to all the start locations -- you'll be able to enter your home address and get turn-by-turn directions to any of the starting points.

Hopefully, this year's SAG maps will include repeater coverage with some sort of clue about when to change frequencies.

If you've been rest stop communications, you know how hard it is to figure out where you're supposed to be in the dark. Maybe the photographs of the rest stops will help this year.

And, all the old stuff will be back again this year -- area motels with phone numbers, GPS waypoints, and last minute information. If there's something else you'd like to see on my site, please let me know.

Elena - KS4OX  
<http://www.RideMaps.com>

**NOTE:** We can still use some more volunteers so if you find you can help, contact Shawn Goodin, K4RSG or Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC. See you on the route!!!!

## Things are happening at Discovery Place

de WB2NHQ

As some of you know, I have taken the job of trying to fill KI4YV Bob's shoes as station manager of the Amateur Radio Education Center at Discovery Place. I remember being a new kid in one of our club board meetings back in 1990 when Bob was in the design stages of our Discovery Place station. Some board members were discouraged and thought it would never happen, Bob said **it would**, and now 10 years later **it has thrived** many thanks to Bob!

Just as much a result of Bob's dedicated service, our success is also the result of W4PVT Mac Wood's efforts as our volunteer manager/coordinator, and all of our volunteer operators. The good news is, Mac is still our dedicated volunteer coordinator, and Bob is still going to be our Wednesday operator.

Our Amateur Radio Education Center continues to receive interest and praise from the Discovery Place staff all the way up to the CEO, John Mackey. In their minds we are the volunteers who do it all ourselves: provide daily operations talking to the world, show many different facets of Ham radio, involve both kids and adults, provide added programs and projects so the kids can take away something tangible, and at the same time spread the word about Discovery Place around the world and into space. In the Ham world we have also become known as the Charlotte science museum with the great signal.

This October is a busy month at the station. We have a Special Event Station on October 13-14 coordinated by AD4IE Paul, celebrating the 20<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of Discovery Place. Look for our ad in this month's QST & CQ, and look for us on the bands: HF Phone, CW, PSK, VHF 6 meters and 2 meters SSB, FM, or Packet. We can even try some 432 USB or 446 FM (set it up with us on 2 meters). Be sure to give us a contact on as many bands and modes as you can and get our special event 20<sup>TH</sup> anniversary QSL card and Certificate. Also don't forget to come visit the station that weekend if you can.

The very next weekend, October 20-21 is Jamboree On The Air coordinated by WD8KEL Rick. Rick did an excellent job with JOTA last year and we had fun getting many scouts on the air from Discovery Place with other locations around the county and around the country. This year our JOTA program is already getting the interest of all kinds of Scouts in our area so listen on our local repeaters, as well as HF, and get ready to talk with some young enthused prospective Hams.

Again, we all express our gratitude to Bob KI4YV for his many years of dedicated service (Send him a piece of traffic saying "thanks Bob"). If you can find any time at all, talk to W4PVT about being a volunteer operator at Dplace, it's lots of fun working with kids of all ages and playing with our "better than most people's" equipment.

## SPECIAL EVENT STATION – DISCOVERY PLACE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Discovery Place in Charlotte, NC

**When:**

Saturday, October 13, 2001 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (local time)

Sunday, October 14, 2001 12:00 NOON to 4:00 PM (local time)

We are looking for amateur radio operators to join us in hosting a special event station at the amateur radio education center at Discovery Place on the weekend of October 13 & 14 in honor of the museum's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will need both loggers and operators. The categories of operators needed are:

- 1- HF sideband
- 2- HF cw
- 3- HF PSK-31
- 4- VHF/UHF sideband
- 5- VHF 2 meter FM

For those of you who have never operated on the “other side” of the pile-up, believe me this is one of the great experiences in amateur radio. I had the pleasure a few years ago and loved every second of it. We must ask for you to be rather competent in the category for which you apply. Shifts will run 2 hours each, but we can be flexible.

If you are interested in helping out as a logger, we will be using a rather easy computer program that can be learned in a few minutes. Also, there will be someone there to help you if you should have a question.

Join us as we have a special event weekend calling CQ for W4BFB and Discovery Place. If we get enough volunteers we will be able to expand our operating hours. If you can help out contact me via email or telephone (answering machine) and leave your name, what you are interested in doing, the best times to phone you, and your telephone number. I'll get back to you quickly.

Paul Ponak, AD4IE  
phone: 703-332-1882  
email [ad4ie@w4bfb.org](mailto:ad4ie@w4bfb.org)

## REPEATER PICTURES

Below are some pictures taken from the repeater sites which K4RSG furnished us:



This picture of downtown Charlotte was taken from the roof of the Bank of America building which is the site of the 440/29 repeater location.

Shawn, K4RSG trying to trace some wire on the 145.23 repeater.



The old WBTV tower on Spencer Mountain where the 145.23 antenna is located.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday-Sunday, September 22-23, 2001** — MS 150 Break Away to the Beach

**Saturday, September 29, 2001** — American Diabetes Association Walktoberfest

**Saturday-Sunday, October 13-14, 2001** — Special Event Station at Discovery Place

**Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21, 2001** — Jamboree On the Air, Discovery Place

**Sunday, October 21, 2001** — Charlotte Crop Walk

**Saturday, November 10, 2001** — VE Test Session, East Baptist Church, Monroe Rd, 9 AM

**Saturday, December 1, 2001** — MARS Holiday Party

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### About This Newsletter

MARS News is published monthly for the members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Permission is given to re-print any article, provided that credit is given to Mecklenburg ARS and the respective author. Subscription to the newsletter, via US Mail, is provided to club members. Complimentary copies are available to guests and prospective members.

The deadline for submitting material is the 10th of each month. Please submit newsletter material to: **Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, 16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078 948-6006 or office 892-3270, Fax Number 892-8326**

You may submit material via Electronic Mail to: [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org) or on 3.5" diskette. The files should be in TEXT or WORD format.

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### MS BREAK AWAY TO THE BEACH PARTICIPANT

David Leonard, AE4AT, will be riding in the MS 150 Bike Tour Breakaway to the Beach on September 22 and 23. David would like to invite you to be a part of his team by contributing to this great cause to find a cure for MS. (David's wife was diagnosed with MS in February.) If you should have questions you can contact David at 704-365-4756. Team members may send contributions made payable to the MS Society to:

David Leonard  
740 Charter Place  
Charlotte, NC 28211

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## Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

### Officers and Board of Directors:

**President**

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG Email Address: k4rsg@arrl.net

**Vice President**

Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Email Address: wb4pcs@w4bfb.org

**Secretary**

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Email Address: af4zk@att.net

**Treasurer**

John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: wb2nhq@w4bfb.org

**Directors**

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Bob Cole, KD4IIN ; Mac McCray, K4PDY; Bill Turner, W4WNT, Dave Wentzel, KD4ITI

**Meeting Place:**

East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)

**Meeting Time:**

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

**Clubroom:**

Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, RM 023, Charlotte, NC Telephone 704-334-3900

**Club Repeaters:**

146.34/146.94 w/Autopatch. 144.69/145.29 w/Autopatch.

144.63/145.23, no Autopatch

449.60/444.60 w/Autopatch and P/T 100.0

Autopatches Access \*(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect #

222.80/224.40 w/Autopatch 145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1

**METROLINA 2m EMERGENCY NET: 9:00 PM local time, daily on  
146.34/146.94 featuring the ARRL Audio News feed on Sunday night.  
Alternate frequencies announced**

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### MARS News

Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, Editor

16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy

Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —  
Tuesday, September 25, 2001